

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 22-31 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended for better clarity. (See the specification at, for example, figures 1A and 1B, and paragraphs [0122] and [0123].) Claim 22 is amended to broaden its scope. Claims 2, 4, 10, 16-21, 23 and 28 are amended in view of the amendments to their respective base claims 1 and 22.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks.

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-21, 32-33 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-15 of co-pending Application No. 10/722,431. Applicant will consider filing a terminal disclaimer. However, the time for filing the terminal disclaimer has not matured because, at present, it is not clear whether and when the co-pending application will issue and whether the scope of claims 1-15 of the co-pending application will remain unchanged.

Furthermore, Applicant has today confirmed, via the patent application information retrieval (PAIR) system, that the co-pending application has not been allowed. Therefore, the instant application may issue before the co-pending application is issued, because the instant amendment places the instant application in condition for allowance. Plus, the provisional double patenting rejection has not yet matured, and thus no terminal disclaimer is needed at this time. Accordingly, withdrawal of the provisional double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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